

**NEW
ENGLAND
GOVERNORS'
CONFERENCE, INC.**

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February 5, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker, House of Representatives
H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
House Minority Leader
H-204 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
S-230
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President, Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader Boehner and Minority Leader McConnell:

As the Governors of the six New England states, we ask you to work with us to help develop our region's low carbon resources and to promote the development of transmission and other infrastructure needed to enhance New England's energy security and to increase the utilization of clean and cost-effective energy resources.

The New England states have a long and successful history of leadership and cooperation on such issues as energy, environment, climate change and numerous other issues. The Governors in our region meet regularly to coordinate policy and through their New England Governors' Conference, Inc.'s (NEG/C) Power Planning and Environment Committees have established a strong and effective working relationship to implement regional initiatives. Through the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP) the Governors have formed a unique relationship with the five Eastern Canadian provinces that has led to numerous successful programs, such as the landmark NEG/ECP Climate Change Action Plan (2001), the first multi-jurisdictional, international climate agreement of its type.

Our states have aggressive targets for the development of low-carbon renewable resources in the region, and ongoing and proposed power trade relationships with the Eastern Canadian provinces provide additional opportunities for the import of large-scale renewable energy. However, despite New England's considerable renewable resource endowment, much of this potential is in geographically-constrained areas and may require significant transmission access and other infrastructure development. The comparatively high costs of transmission and other infrastructure required to develop and bring these resources to operation have presented barriers that have impaired our ability to unleash these renewable energy opportunities.

Our states are actively engaged in discussions to overcome these barriers and forward our regional renewable and low-carbon energy objectives:

Governor
JOHN E. BALDACCIO
Maine
CHAIRMAN

Governor
DEVAL L. PATRICK
Massachusetts
VICE CHAIRMAN

Governor
M. JODI RELL
Connecticut

Governor
JOHN LYNCH
New Hampshire

Governor
DONALD L. CARCIERI
Rhode Island

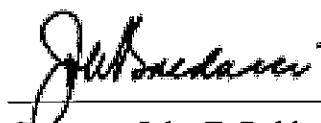
Governor
JAMES H. DOUGLAS
Vermont

- In 2008, the NEGC created the New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE) to work with the Power Planning Committee to address resource adequacy, regional planning and other issues.
- At its meeting in Bar Harbor, Maine on September 16th, the NEGC adopted a resolution (attached) addressing regional cooperation on energy issues and a regional approach to renewable resource and cost-effective transmission infrastructure development.
- Since the adoption of the Bar Harbor resolution, the Governors, energy policy officials and regulators in New England have been working to produce a regional vision to achieve the goals of the resolution; this vision will be discussed and further refined at the NEGC meeting on February 22, 2009 in Washington, DC.
- The Governors have a close working relationship with the Independent System Operator – New England, Inc. (ISO-NE, Inc.) and we have asked the ISO-NE for technical assistance as we create a 'blueprint' to overcome our transmission and other infrastructure challenges and enhance our region's energy security.

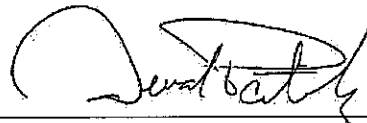
However, we can only achieve our goals in partnership with the federal government and federal agencies engaged in supporting state and regional infrastructure development. Our intent is to submit our regional blueprint to the appropriate federal agencies and Congressional leadership within the next several months. As Governors of the six New England states, we therefore respectfully ask that

- As our President and Congressional leadership, you work with us to develop a framework for a federal-regional partnership that will promote the development of cost-effective, low-carbon, secure energy resources in our region that will support both our goals and the President's energy and environmental policy objectives; and
- In the development of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, you ensure that the language of the Act would allow for funding of the New England initiative based on our regional blueprint.

As New England's Governors, we believe we have an opportunity in these difficult economic times to make a lasting difference in the way we generate and use electricity and the associated economic, environmental and health benefits that such a change will bring to our region and our citizens. We look forward to working with you in achieving our shared vision of a low-carbon, cost-effective and secure energy future for New England.



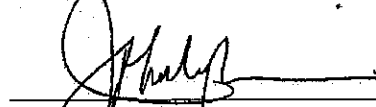
Governor John E. Baldacci, Chair
Maine



Governor Deval L. Patrick, Vice Chair
Massachusetts



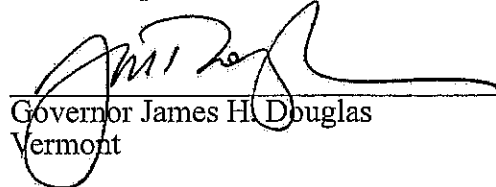
Governor M. Jodi Rell
Connecticut



Governor John Lynch
New Hampshire



Governor Donald L. Carcieri
Rhode Island



Governor James H. Douglas
Vermont

enc: NEGC Resolution #186: "NEGC Resolution on Energy Policy", Bar Harbor, Maine 9/16/08.
cc: New England Congressional Delegation